

The Paducah Sun.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT.	
1 3778	17 3707
2 3753	18 3702
3 3736	19 3695
4 3730	20 3686
5 3732	21 3682
6 3730	22 3684
7 3720	23 3679
8 3704	24 3691
9 3700	25 3712
10 3696	26 3712
11 3708	27 3699
12 3712	28 3695
13 3705	29 3700
14 3699	30 3700
Total	100,247
Average for Jan. 1906	3713
Average for Jan., 1905	2882
Increase	\$31

Personally appeared before me, E. J. Paxton, general manager of The Sun, who affirms that the above statement of the circulation of The Sun for the month of January, 1906, is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

PETER PURYEAR,
 Notary Public.
 My commission expires January 2, 1908.

Daily Thought.
 "Temptations are opportunities."

THE COUNTY TAX QUESTION.

Some of the county officials brand the attempt to release residents of cities from being overloaded with county taxes, as "absurd." Of course they think so. They would be very foolish to take any other view of it at least openly. It may be as absurd as they seem to regard it, but the move is not confined to Paducah alone, but to cities all over the state. The residents of at least some cities are tired of paying nine-tenths of the county taxes. They are weary of paying about \$18,000 out of every \$20,000 wasted on county dirt roads every year, when the county doesn't pay a nickel on the city streets, although the streets are as much in the county as the dirt roads. Some of the counties have refused to bury city paupers or to contribute to their support while alive, and have also refused to pay a cent towards maintaining pest houses. It has for years been a case of gouge, gouge the city tax payer, year after year. The county supervisors meet and boost up city property as high as possible, and having a majority on the board, cut down county property as low as possible. The resident of the county pays about one-tenth of the county taxes, and the city man pays the remainder, and then has his city taxes to pay, in addition to both city and county polls.

After the resident of the city has paid over about nine-tenths of the county taxes, fiscal court meets, and proceeds to dispose of the money, usually with little or no regard for the rights or wishes of those who have contributed nine-tenths of it.

There are of course annual expenses of the county, part of which the people in the city should pay, but there are others that they should not be made to pay, although the law may require it. The worm will turn, and it seems to be turning now.

The Henderson Gleaner says of the move at Lexington, and an editorial in the Lexington Leader:

"The editor complains of the injustice done Lexington because the fiscal courts of that county levies the taxes on the city the same as on the county and from the further fact, as we presume, these taxes are all appropriated outside the city. That is what is done in Henderson county and presumably in every county in the state except the county of Jefferson. Jefferson county is excepted because she has a city of the first class. By section 2744 of the Kentucky Statutes cities of the first class are separated from the county for the purpose of government. The same power that separates cities of the first class may separate cities of the second or third class if so desired by the legislature.

"The fiscal court of Henderson county levies 50 cents on all taxable property of the county including

the city. When it appropriates the money thus collected the city is not in the county. In short the city is in the county for the purpose of taxation but out of the county when it comes to spending said money. Of this our people do not complain. They pay that tax as cheerfully as they pay the taxes for their own city government. This city pays ten cents on the property for county purposes. Then it pays fifty cents for roads and bridges, all of which goes out of the city. In short this city pays near \$25,000 each year for roads and bridge purposes all of which goes out of the city, and yet our people do not complain as our Lexington contemporary is wont to complain. If Lexington wants to avoid such a condition she will have to be separated from the county."

THE CITY AND ITS UTILITIES.

No doubt whatever that public ownership of utilities is the best solution in theory of many difficult problems of urban government, says the Louisville Herald. But the wisdom of its practical application depends on the city itself. Municipal ownership has proved a success in Glasgow and several other British cities, because the government of those cities is managed on a business, not a political, partisan or factional, basis. The best men there are, irrespective of party, selected for positions of municipal government, control and administration. In American it is very different. City governments are here run on party lines. Offices are distributed, not to the fittest to discharge the duties of the position assigned, but to the man who, in the place given him, will do the best service to party. All subordinates are required to be party workers. Assessments for political campaign funds are levied regularly on officials. It is to their interest to keep the party with which they are identified in office as long as possible.

In Louisville we have a fire and a police department bound from shoe string to cravat to the dominant democratic administration, for the moment in power at the city hall. Given municipal ownership of other utilities, such as gas, electric light, water, heating, telephone, subway and surface cars, whole armies of partisan workers would be formed of employees in all these services. Men seeking, first of all, to promote party advantages could not render the city the whole-souled, loyal duty demanded of the truly efficient public servant. The efficient party worker, but inefficient city servant, is the employee who would every time, in the civic administration's esteem, hold first place.

Mr. Dairymple, the eminent Glasgow authority on municipal ownership, who some time ago visited Chicago at the instance of Mayor Dunne, reported against the applicability of the principle to Chicago under existing conditions. Mr. Dairymple's chief objection—insurmountable it really is—to municipal ownership in America is the partisan system of city government here prevailing.

That system is, unfortunately in full play in Louisville. Pending the coming of the good day—when Louisville's business sense will insist on a business city government, the city's duty is clear:

To part with no franchise in perpetuity, or for terms thereunto equivalent.

To lease franchise for limited periods to home corporations preferably, other things being equal, but with justice to all others.

To retain such powers of control over the lessees as will insure economical and efficient service.

To suffer no lobbying at the Council boards by the lessees.

To prohibit participation in political campaigns of the lessees in their corporate capacity, or their employees as such.

To insist on prompt forfeiture of charters on default of lessees to do their duty to the people.

In one word, franchise holders must be at all times faithful to their lessor, the people, and the latter loyal to every point of agreement entered into with the lessees.

A SIMPLE QUESTION OF LAW.

There is no politics in the matter of declaring several city offices vacant. It is simply a question of complying with the law. If these offices have not been legally created under the second class charter, they cannot legally be maintained at the expense of the taxpayers. If they cannot be legally maintained at the expense of the taxpayers, the members of the legislative boards of Paducah have no right to pay the salaries of the incumbents.

The facts in the case are that the second-class charter under which the city is operating, Section 3172, page 77, says under the head of "Elections:" "All offices created by laws in force prior to this act taking effect, not herein expressly provided for, shall be, and they are hereby abolished upon expiration of the terms for which present incumbents may have been respectively elected; but the general council shall have power by ordinance, to re-create such

of said offices, and to prescribe the terms and duties thereof, as may be needed to effect the corporate purposes."

It is inferred from this charter provision that all city offices not provided for in the charter were abolished when the city went into the second class, and it became necessary, under this plain provision, to enact ordinances re-creating them.

Among the offices not expressly provided for in the charter are city physician, wharfmaster, city weigher, license inspector, sewer inspector and milk and meat inspector. It is held that when Paducah went into the second class, these offices were abolished when the terms then being served expired. In order to continue them it became necessary, under the provision above, to recreate them by passage of ordinances.

Whether or not this was done is the question that is now before the local boards. There are ordinances recreating the offices of sewer inspector, license inspector and market master, but no ordinances can be found creating or recreating the others, except that of milk and meat inspector, which was created subsequent to Paducah's going into the second class.

If ordinances recreating the offices were not passed, there are now no such offices, and the incumbents have no right to hold them and draw salaries. If they have no right to hold them and draw salaries, it may be safely predicted that they will not be permitted to do it by the general council, which is the sum and substance of the whole matter.

It is a plain question of complying with the law, and has no politics in it. If the members of the general council vote salaries for offices that do not legally exist, they can be held personally responsible for every dollar of the city's money thus paid out.

SHOULD BE COURAGEOUS.

A man holding public office should have the courage of his convictions, or he is in the wrong place. Evansville, Ind., has been wrestling with the question of granting a telephone company franchise. As usual, there were demagogues, men with axes to grind and the usual array of other kinds of opponents, but the council decided the question for the greatest good to the greatest number, as it saw it, and granted a franchise for thirty-five years, something that would have caused a number of anti-corporation people in Paducah to go into conniption fits had such a thing been attempted here, which of course it could not be, as no franchise can be granted for over twenty years in Kentucky. With a vast array of opponents of various kinds before them the council voted the franchise and the Evansville Journal-News thus tells of one member's stand:

"Dr. Edwin Walker stated that he had made an investigation into the telephone situation in other cities throughout the country, had looked into the matter of rates, and found that the present one offered by the Cumberland company was a fair and just one.

"I find," continued Councilman Walker, "that the telephone corporation with a lower rate than this can not make money, can not pay dividends or run with any degree of success.

"In the interest of you people standing out there beyond the railing, and I see the faces of many of my friends, my neighbors and fellow-citizens, I believe that I am doing the best thing for you, and the people of Evansville, now and in the future, when I vote aye for this franchise."

It showed he had the courage of his convictions in the face of harrowing conditions. Whatever a public official's view on any subject, he should have the courage to get up and act according to his best judgment.

There does not appear to be any necessity for the legislative boards of Paducah fighting the police bill one way or the other. The general council has absolute power in making annual appropriations for city government, and can appropriate \$10,000, \$40,000 or some other amount, as it sees fit. It really makes little difference to the council how many patrolmen there are, if the mayor and his crowd want to insist on any particular number. The general council provides the money and the police commissioners have to make it go around. The talk of working any particular number until the appropriation gives out and then suing the city for subsequent salaries, is rot. Instead of the law compelling the legislative boards to pay over money that has not been appropriated, it specifically prohibits its spending a nickel more than appropriated, or a cent for any purpose other than that for which it was appropriated.

Here is a little riddle for Paducah municipal ownership advocates: If the city of Kalamazoo Mich., furnishes 340 street lights at a cost of \$15,000 a year actual operating expenses, why is it that in Paducah, for twelve years under municipal ownership and municipal operation of

the light plant, an average of 131 lights have cost the people \$111,862 actual operating expenses without making any allowance for depreciation and interest? Or if Kalamazoo, Mich., has been furnishing 340 lights for \$15,000 a year, why should the taxpayers of Paducah have been mulcted every year for twelve years to the extent of \$84 a light for 131 lights, counting in interest and depreciation, an average of \$11,125 a year for one-third as many lights as Kalamazoo has?

A gentleman with a keen sense of humor, declares that Mr. Head's police bill should be entitled, "A bill to compel the general council of Paducah to loosen up."

RIVER NEWS

River Stages.

Cairo, 15.5—0.1 fall.
 Chattanooga, 4.4—stand.
 Cincinnati, 10.6—0.3 rise.
 Evansville, 7.2—0.3 fall.
 Florence, 2.9—0.1 rise.
 Johnsonville, 4.8—0.1 fall.
 Louisville, 4.3—0.1 rise.
 Mt. Carmel, 5.0—0.1 fall.
 Nashville, 8.9—stand.
 Pittsburg, 1.9—stand.
 Davis Island Dam, 4.2—stand.
 St. Louis, 10.0—0.3 rise.
 Mt. Vernon, 7.3—stand.
 Paducah, 8.2—fall.

The river is still falling here, the gauge today registering 8.2 feet, a fall of 0.2.

The Dick Fowler got away on time for Cairo and way points today with a good trip. She had three cars of peanuts for the C. & E. I. railroad at Joppa.

The Clyde leaves this afternoon at 4 o'clock for the Tennessee river.

The Peters Lee is due up from Memphis en route to Cincinnati tomorrow afternoon.

The H. W. Buttorf arrived from Clarksville today and left for Nashville.

The Richardson is at Nashville and in a few days will go to St. Louis to enter the St. Louis and Cumberland river trade.

Capt. James Koger left last night for St. Louis.

The Joe Fowler was the Evansville packet today.

The St. Louis and Tennessee river Packet company will start its boats out next week, the City of Memphis, the City of Saltville and the City of Savannah.

The Harth is due from Evansville with corn.

The J. W. Thomas, which recently sank at Tell City, has been put in readiness to be raised at the first rise in the river. She will undergo extensive repairs and be put back in the running.

The funeral of Robert N. Denny, a union veteran, took place at Louisville. Mr. Denny was fifty years old, and was a native of Illinois, but moved to Kentucky about thirty-five years ago. He was formerly a river man, and spent eighteen years as a steward on boats plying the Ohio river.

Capt. J. S. Barrett, formerly of Cincinnati, has located at Cairo.

The Sprague, from the lower Mississippi en route to Cincinnati with a tow of empties, is due at this port. The Wash Honshell departed for Grand Chain and got the coal boat recently sunk there by the J. B. Finley on her trip down the river. The Mary Michael, from Paducah, arrived light at 12:30 p. m. yesterday. —Cairo Bulletin.

Capt. Lindburn, who brought in the City of Cincinnati this morning, stated that the river had opened up to navigation for a distance of 200 miles above Cincinnati, and that Pomeroy, a point about half way between Cincinnati and Pittsburg, is now the head of navigation. Further improvement is expected within twenty-four hours. The river between here and the Queen City is almost entirely free from ice. The river still hovers around the four-foot mark at Pittsburg, and there is little hope of an improvement in the stage anywhere in the near future. No rains are predicted. There is still considerable ice in the Monongahela river, and the boats are prevented from bringing coal down from the mines.—Louisville Post.

When a man is in love he thinks it is the most beautiful thing in the world; when he's out of it he thinks the opposite, with an exclamation point.

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Preparations Begin Soon to Remodel Palmer---Chicago Man Comes Next Week

Mr. Joseph L. Friedman returned yesterday from a trip to Chicago, where he went on business in connection with the Palmer hotel deal. "We are not ready to give out any details of the new company yet," he said, "or anything about its plans. You can say, however, that the trade has been consummated and the improvements and additions to The Palmer are an assured fact. Mr. Frank Murphy, assistant manager of the Great Northern hotel of Chicago, representing the Chicago interests in the new company, will be in Paducah

next week to look over the grounds and get some information they desire. Mr. Murphy will probably be manager of the hotel. We shall bring an architect down in a few days and with Mr. Murphy and our associates go over the plans with him. The matter of what improvements will be made are necessarily a question of the future, as we want to find out just what we want and what can be done with the present building in the way of additions and changes. Work will probably start in forty days, but it all depends on what plans we adopt."

GREENER FIELDS

Are Sought By Dr. Hessig and His Young Wife.

Dr. H. T. Hessig and wife No. 3 have left for greener fields and pastures new. They were passengers last night at 6 o'clock on the south-bound train, and Dr. Hessig told friends that he was going to Mexico or New Mexico to locate. He sold his horse to Fire Chief Wood and disposed of a lot of other property.

Dr. Hessig lived in Paducah thirty or more years ago, but went to Brooklyn, N. Y., when a young man and resided there and in New York City until six or eight years ago, when he came to Paducah. He was followed here by his wife, who after causing him no little notoriety returned east and the couple were divorced.

Dr. Hessig later married and his domestic troubles seemed to multiply. His second wife died suddenly several months ago, and not long afterwards he married Miss Essie Graham

who is wife No. 3. A few days ago his first wife appeared on the scene again and claimed the doctor was not properly supporting their children, and she and wife No. 3 had trouble, for which the latter was fined in police court. It seems that this was the last straw, and that Dr. Hessig has shaken the dust of Paducah from his feet for good.

Dr. Hessig visited the offices of Attorneys Bagby and Martin, with whom he has been negotiating a compromise in his bankrupt matter, and stated he intended to return to Paducah in about two weeks, or in ample time to effect the compromise. He does not have to compromise, but signified his willingness to do so. Attorney Martin stated that he believed Dr. Hessig would return, judging what he said yesterday afternoon before departure.

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